

Aug 1644
A T R V E C O I P I E *XIII*
OF COLONEL
S^r GAMALIEL DUDLEY'S
Letter to His Highnesse
PRINCE RVPERT.

From NEWARK, 4. March. 1644.

B E I N G
AN EXACT RELATION OF
S^r MARM. LANGDALES
March Northward; As also the great
Victory obtained by Him, over the
Lord Fairfax neare Pontefract,
1. Martii, 1644.



O X F O R D,
Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD, Printer to
the University. 1644.

A TRUE COPY
OF COLONEL
S. MARMADUKES

Letter to His Highness

PRINCE RUPERT

London, 1644

BEING

AN EXACT RELATION OF

S. MARMADUKES

March Northward
Victory obtained over the

Lord Fairfax's army

London, 1644



OXFORD

Printed by Leonard Bichard, Printer

the University, 1644

May it please your Highnesse,

THe zeale of our duties at once unto His Majestyes Service, and the reliefe of our distressed Friends in *Pontefract*, being, by the blessing of God, seconded with successes of happinesse beyond our greatest hopes, I was commanded by Sir *Marmaduke Langdale*, to give unto your Highnesse at present a particular Account of each occurring circumstance in this our Expedition.

On Sunday the 23^d of *February*, we began our march from *Banbury* towards *Daventry*, where we had Intelligence of an uncertain number of Horse and Foot that attended thereabouts with designe to affront Vs in our march, but Sir *William Compton* marching before Vs with his Horse, was onely looked on by them at a good distance, and after the encounter of a little skirmishing, they perceiving the rest of our Horse advancing towards them, wheeled off in great disorder, and Sir *William Compton* had the execution of them in their flight very neare *Northampton Towne*. Their particular loss in this defeat, I presume your Highnesse has already received account of at full from *Banbury*.

On Monday the 24th we continued our March to *Harborough* without any opposition or sight of Enemy, but here we were certainly advertised of a conjunction made that night of all the Horse of *Leicester*, *Darby*, *Nottingham*, *Grantham*, *Stanford*, *Burleigh*, and *Rockingham*, associated under the conduct of Colonell *Roffier*, (and then in present motion) drawn out, but upon what design, severally reported: untill the next day being *Tuesday* the 25. marching from *Harborough* towards *Melton-Mowbray*, we were at full assured; for approaching neare the Towne, we discovered some Horse and Dragoons in it, and upon another passe of the same water in a faire Meade, about halfe a mile from the Towne, their main strength (as we judged them) being neare 1000 in all, were drawn up to oppose us (as Sir *Marm. Langdale* did conceive) at the passage, be-

ing a place of very great advantage, for which purpose he was instantly putting himselfe into a posture to endeavour to force the passe, but their eagernesse to fight saved us that labour, for by that time that we were well in order drawn up, and had gained the brow of the Hill on the South side of *Melton*, the Enemy was advanced through the Towne to meet us, and in a gallant fury gave us a bold charge upon the very ground chosen by our selves to fight upon; the encounter continued hot and sharp a good while, with severall various appearances of successse on both sides, but at length they were wholly routed, many of their Commanders slain, many hurt, and all the body scattered unto their severall Garrisons, the fatigue of our long March, and the night intervening, prevented our very farre pursuit of them in a strange Country, but we flew upon the place where they were, and took almost so many Prisoners and foure Colours of Horse. The losse we sustained was small, only Sir *John Girdlington* and Captain *Gastign*, two gallant Gentlemen, both slain in the first charge, and some few wounded. One Captain *Harker* held a Garrison for the Rebels at Sir *Erasmus de la Fontaine*'s house in *Kirby*, within a mile of the place we fought upon, who being with his Horse and Dragoons totally routed in this battaile, went back in despaire to his Garrison and burnt it, and then fled with such as would follow him, being but two in all, in the night to *Leicester*, a common Parliament practice, to set a house on fire, and then to runne away by the light of it. The pursuit of the Enemy being done, and the pilage of the field gathered by our men, wherein was good store both of Horse-mens Armes and Muskets.

Sir *Marm. Langdale* rallying all his Troops together again in order, continued his March that night beyond *Baldon* Castle, and the next day, being *Wednesday* the 26, we advanced foure miles beyond *Newark*, at which time the Enemy with some Foot from *Lincoln*, *Welbeck*, and some other adjacent Garrisons, and with eight Regiments of Horse, and one of Dragoons had besieged *Nonwell* House, a Garrison holden by *Newark* Forces some miles from the Town. But having gained intelligence of our advance and successse had against *Rosfiter*, (their admired Champion) they instantly deserted the attempt.

onset, and retreated in great disorder unto *Ratford*; from whence the night following they fled in as much scare and distraction unto *Doncaster*.

On Thursday the 27th, the Governour of *Newark* assisted us with 400 Foot and about 400 Horse under the Conduct of his Lieutenant Governour, which joyned to us, we marched that night beyond *Tuxford*, not disturbed either in march or Quarters by any Enemy, and the next day being Friday the 28th, we advanced towards *Doncaster*, about *Rossington* Bridge, some three miles from the Towne, our Forlorne Parties discover'd some appearance of an Enemy, but still as we approached with our body they retreated, this night we expected they would have disputed our passage over the River *Dun*, but they only made a *bon-mine* there, and left us the Towne of *Doncaster* to Quarter in that night.

The next morning, being Saturday the first of *March*, we drew early into the field, where immediately Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* put the Army into the posture of Battaille he did intend to fight in, and prepared the Souldier with a knowledge of such difficulties as they should expect this day to encounter with, and therefore to goe armed with the constancy of unflinnet resolutions, it being a businesse that was at first no lesse dangerous to undertake, then it was now desperate to decline; The newes was entertained by a welcome from the Souldiers that echoed out aloud their joyfull acclamations. This propheticke Omen presaging clearly the happy consequence of their ensuing Victory.

We marched without sight of Enemy, till we came neare *Wansbrigg*, above three miles short of *Pontefract*, where about 2000 Horse, and 500 Dragoones of the Enemies, attended that place, as much as possibly they could, to impede the speed of our course that way, but without much danger in the dispute, we forc'd the Passe, but yet they so retarded our march, as the besiegers had gain'd time to be all drawne together both Horse and Foot in order, being in number about 2500 Foot, and neare 4000 Horse and Dragoones, all the strength of *Englisb* that possibly the Lord *Fairfax* could draw together in the *North*, excepting the Forces that *Meldrum* lay withall before *Scarbo*

ring, and Sir John Smalls before *Sandal*, which he himselfe in Person came this morning unto them, with two Regiments of Horse, and 500 Commanded Musqueteers.

Between five and five in the afternoon, we gained the Top of the Hill over against the Castle, where our Army standing, all drawne up in the battailes, and now we thought we view'd them with the fincy of that great Capitaine when he first encountered Elephants, *Tandem per unius periculum video*, a good advantage was it to us, that our Forlorne Parties, seconded with severall Divisions of our Horse, had beaten in that great Body of their Van-cumlers in such disorder into their Main Battaille, as taking that opportunity with a continued charge, this had not time to recover themselves into any sorted order, and though the suddenesse of the Action gave not leave for each Division of our Horse to observe its proper time and place of their severall orders to Charge in, yet in the whole it was so fully done, as that there was not one Body of theirs all, but did four or five severall times that day act their parts with very gallant Execution.

The Fight continued without a cleare Victory, as the least three hours, untill there was not left on our Party standing in order to Charge withall, more then three small Bodies, consisting of above 120 in each Body, which with some Officers and Gentlemen together rally'd, gave a reasonable Charge to the list of the Enemies strength, the Castle at the same instant making a gallant Sally of 200 Musqueteers, who fell in the Rente of the Enemies Foot, our owne Foot firing upon them at the same time in their Flanck, and this totally cleared the Field. We followed the Execution six or seven miles three severall wayes, as the Enemy fled; A short time (with a Reserve of Foot, and *Moryans* Dragoons, and one peece of Cannon) they endeavoured to defend the Passe at *Ferrybriggs*, but were soon beaten off, lost their Cannon, and in the pursuit their Carriages, with 34 double Barrells of Powder, and a proportionable quantity of Match and Baller, and much other spoyle. There were slain about 300 upon the place, and many drowned in the River, which water they took as nimbly as if it had been their naturall Element, as yet we have not had time to fish for them betwixt

betwixt 7 and 800 Prisoners, of which 44 Officers of quality, as Colours of Foot, being all they had there, and not one escaped with their Armes, and 16 Standards of Horse, many of their chiefe Officers both of Horse and Foot slain, as Colonel *Armes*, Colonel *Thornes*, Colonel *Maloney*, and many more, whose names I have not, all the Foot Armes we took, to the number of 1500 at the least, and many Horse Armes. *Te Deum Laudamus. Non nobis Domine, non nobis, &c.*

One remarkable circumstance I cannot omit to acquaint your Highnesse with; They had some few dayes before given out, that they would take the Castle with a Stratagem, which should be thus: They would make as if reliefe were coming, and so they would seem to draw all off, as to fight the Rebels, leaving onely an Ambuscade in the Towne, and then they would skit ush together, and seem defeated by the Relievers, and so retreat disorderly to beate, in expectation the Castle should make a Sally, and then their Ambuscade should surpris'd. But I hope they were now taught the danger of playing with edg'd Tooles, and will hereafter leave such mocking; At our first advance into the Country, it was generally reported, that your Highnesse was come in Person, which struck a great terrour into the Enemy and Courage into our Souldiers, as had your Highnesse transmitted some of your Royall Spirit into their hearts, and your active strength into their Armes, scorning to be guilty of any Act that they should have had cause to have blush'd, had your Highnesse looked on.

About two of the clock in the morning, all parties that had been in pursuit of the Enemy being returned, we drew into Quarters to refresh, and about eight of the clock in the morning on Sunday the second of March, Sir *Marm. Langdale* sent parties out into the Country, which brought in plenty of Allsorts of provisions for the Castle, and then appoynted a Rendezvous the next morning. In the interim he was advertised that *Rossiter* with all his broken Troops rallyed, and others joyned to them, and 300 Dragoons, was come to *Doncaster* with intention to joyne with *Fairfax*, whereupon we immediately Marched towards them, but they having secured the Bridge,

Bridge, Sir *Marm. Langdale* diverted his course over a foot
at *Oldmark* near *Rotherham*, and thence we continued our
March (only halting some few hours by the way to refresh)
without any loss at all, to *Newark* whereabouts we are at
present Quarters. I can assure Your Highnesse that the pre-
sent effects of this Expedition are these.

Besides that our coming was highly seasonable; it being
almost the very Criticall minute of the Castles necessity, *Don-
burgh, Bellingham, and Skipton* were all besieged, and they were
forced to draw off upon this occasion, and are now so shaken
that they cannot suddenly be in any probable condition to be-
gin new sieges hastily, besides the Country is so discouraged
from their party, that whereas the Lord *Pembroke* had under-
taken to have raised an Army of 20000 Horse and Foot for his
Sonne to move into the South withall, and had prepared his
business in great forwardnesse, he will by this business
doubtlesse receive a good diversion, the Countrey generally
declining him, and whosoever your Highnesse shall be pleas-
ed to take this Countrey into your particuler care, the better
chalked out unto Your Highnesse a ready track for to raise the
same levy in their own way, which that Your Highnesse may
have a speedy opportunity to undertake, near the continuance
of your Highnesse happiness and honour, shall be the daily
Prayer of

May it please your Highnesse,

Newark 4.

of March 1644.

Your most humbly and most faithfully
devoted of all that serve your Highnesse

GAM. DVDBEEY.

We lost not one Officer (God be thanked) and but very few
common Souldiers.

FINIS.

Bridge.